

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-14 (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented)

An image forming method comprising:

carrying out reversal development with a developer comprising a toner prepared by agglomerating resin particles in a water based medium.

16. (Previously Presented)

The image forming method of claim 15, comprising:

charging a surface of a latent image forming body;

exposing a light to the latent image forming body to form a latent image;

transferring an obtained toner image onto an image support; and

fixing said toner image.

17. (Previously Presented)

The image forming method of claim 16, wherein the toner contains toner particles having a shape coefficient of 1.3 to 2.2 and at least 80% by number of the toner particles have a shape coefficient of 1.3 to 2.0, said shape coefficient= $(\text{maximum diameter}/2)^2 \times \pi / \text{projection area}$ .

18. (Previously Presented)

The image forming method of claim 16, wherein the toner includes toner particles having a volume average particle diameter of 3 to 9  $\mu\text{m}$ .

19. (Previously Presented)

The image forming method of claim 15, wherein the toner includes toner particles having a volume average particle diameter of 3 to 9  $\mu\text{m}$ .

20. (Previously Presented)

The image forming method of claim 15, wherein the toner includes toner particles having a shape coefficient of 1.3 to 2.2 and at least 80% by number of the toner particles have a shape coefficient of 1.3 to 2.0, said shape coefficient= $(\text{maximum diameter}/2)^2 \times \pi / \text{projection area}$ .

21. (Previously Presented)

The image forming method of claim 15, wherein content ratio of minute toner particles having a particle diameter of no more than 3  $\mu\text{m}$ , is not more than 20 percent in terms of the number of toner particles.

22. (Previously Presented)

The image forming method of claim 15, wherein the reversal development is carried out by the contact development.

23. (Currently Amended)

The image forming method of claim 15, comprising

driving a latent image forming body and a developer carrying member so that a ratio  $\frac{V_s}{V_p}$  of line velocity of the latent image forming body ( $V_p$ ) to line velocity of the developer carrying device ( $V_s$ ) is 1.1 to 3.0.

24. (Previously Presented)

The image forming method of claim 15, wherein the resin particles have weight average diameter of between 50 to 2000 nm.

25. (Previously Presented)

The image forming method of claim 15, wherein the reversal development is carried out by the contact development, and ratio ( $V_s/V_p$ ) of line velocity of a latent image forming body ( $V_p$ ) to line velocity of a developer carrying device ( $V_s$ ) is 1.1 to 3.0.

26. (Previously Presented)

The image forming method of claim 15, wherein the water based medium includes at least 50 percent by weight of water and organic solvents of methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, butanol, acetone, methylethylketone or tetrahydrofuran.

27. (Previously Presented)

The image forming method of claim 15, wherein after reversal development, said obtained toner image is transferred onto an image support, and subsequently fixed.

28. (Previously Presented)

The image forming method of claim 15, comprising:

exposing a light to form a latent image on a latent image forming body with an exposure diameter ( $A$  ( $\mu\text{m}$ ), wherein the relationship between the exposure diameter  $A$  ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) and a development diameter  $R$  ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) of the developed image is held 1.1 to 1.5.

29. (Previously Presented)

An image forming apparatus comprising:

an exposing device to expose a latent image forming body to form an electrostatic latent image;

a development device to carry out reversal development with a developer comprising a toner, wherein the toner is prepared by agglomerating resin particles in a water based medium;

a transferring device to transfer an obtained toner image onto an image support; and

a fixing device to fix the toner image.

30. (Previously Presented)

The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the developing device includes a developer carrying member, and the latent image forming body and the developer carrying member are driven so that a ratio ( $V_s/V_p$ ) of line velocity of the latent image forming body ( $V_p$ ) to line velocity of the developer carrying device ( $V_s$ ) is 1.1 to 3.0.

31. (Previously Presented)

An image forming method comprising:

exposing a light to a latent image forming body to form a latent image; and

carrying out reversal development to develop the latent image with a developer comprising a toner prepared by fusing resin particles in a water based medium.